

unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, September 16, 1999 beginning at 2 p.m. in Dirksen 226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I respectfully request that the attached statement delivered by Governor Pedro Rossello, of Puerto Rico, before the Human Resources Committee of the National Governors' Association be printed in the RECORD. This statement was made in reference to S. 1364, the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999.

The statement follows.

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE PEDRO ROSSELLÓ, GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO AND CO-LEAD GOVERNOR ON FATHERHOOD IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION, DELIVERED AT A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI, AUGUST 8, 1999

Thank you, Mister Chairman.

Governor Tom Ridge and I are extremely enthusiastic about the duties we have been discharging as the N-G-A's Lead Governors on Fatherhood.

And in that regard, I certainly want to acknowledge the superb collaboration that we have received from the colleagues who serve with us as fellow members of the Governors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion.

As has been documented by the N-G-A Center for Best Practices, the efforts we've been undertaking have yielded a rich harvest.

That harvest encompasses: An intensification of public awareness campaigns—in nearly all of the states and territories—to promote positive father involvement; a sharper focus for programs, throughout the nation, that are aimed at developing the parenting skills of new fathers; and better targeted support services for disadvantaged or non-custodial fathers, so that they can learn how to improve their relationships with their children.

During this past year, our Task Force also expanded its outreach, while joining with the National Fatherhood Initiative, as a co-sponsor of the 1999 National Summit on Supporting Urban Fathers.

At the event 2 months ago, we helped spearhead the creation of a brand new Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion.

As a result, Governors and Mayors are now pooling their resources and putting their heads together on multi-sectoral approaches that can meet the challenge of promoting responsible fatherhood in those urban communities where absenteeism and neglect place very large numbers of children at risk.

We Governors can take considerable satisfaction in the progress we have made since we last gathered to discuss the need for an aggressive campaign to foster conscientious fatherhood.

Nevertheless, it remains a fact that we still have a long way to go in this important quest to improve the home environments and—by extension—the learning environments of countless thousands of girls and boys and teenagers . . . all across America.

And with that in mind, I strongly recommend that this Committee renew its sup-

port for N-G-A Policy H-R 28, on the subject of Paternal Involvement in Child-Rearing.

However, I would also submit that we must go further.

In addition to re-committing ourselves to a policy statement which underscores our collective determination to enter the new millennium with stronger families and a brighter future for the nation's young people, we must likewise re-commit ourselves to a partnership with other elected officials who share those indispensable aspirations.

So it is that I hope each and every one of us will emphatically endorse Congressional enactment of the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999.

This bill, introduced less than a month ago by Senators EVAN BAYH and PETE DOMENICI, will empower states and communities with new tools to encourage the formation—and the maintenance—of two-parent households, as well as the acceptance by absent fathers of personal responsibility for their children. This bipartisan legislation will provide states and communities with flexible funding to promote responsible fatherhood, through alliances with news media, charities, community-based organizations and religious institutions.

The bill will also amend the "high-performance bonus" that was created by the 1996 Federal welfare reform statute; the amendment will establish that the formation and maintenance of two-parent families shall henceforward be taken into account as one of the factors considered when granting bonuses to states that are successful in obtaining private-sector jobs for welfare recipients.

These and other provisions of the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999 will lend tangible support to our own pioneering efforts on behalf of fatherhood promotion.

And I am confident that the initiatives contemplated under this bill can be put into effect without jeopardizing any of the existing appropriations that mean so much to our states and communities.

In summary, then, I invite your attention and your allegiance to both the renewal of our N-G-A Policy-Plank, H-R 28, and to this very promising new Federal legislation measure.

That concludes what I hope we can agree has been a report that was at once brief and to the point.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.●

NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of thousands of hard-working Americans who are members of the American Payroll Association. As you may know, this week, September 13 through 17, has been designated National Payroll Week, a time to take note of the efforts of our nation's payroll professionals.

Payroll taxes are the largest source of revenue for the federal government. While I for one would like to see these rates reduced, we should not let this detract from the hard work which payroll professionals put into their efforts. Payroll work is also a vital component of facilitating child-support payments. It is my understanding that more than 60 percent of all child support collections are derived from payroll deductions for this purpose.

While many of us here often make note of Americans working in the factories, in our retail outlets, and on our

farms, many times we overlook those who monitor the systems that ensure Americans receive their wages quickly and efficiently. I encourage my colleagues to also acknowledge our nation's payroll professionals during this week.●

CONDEMNATION OF PREJUDICE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND ANCESTRY

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 53, a sense of Congress resolution relating to the recent allegations of espionage and illegal campaign financing that have brought into question the loyalty of individuals of Asian Pacific ancestry.

Mr. President, I am concerned about the negative impact that the recent investigation of Wen Ho Lee, a scientist at Los Alamos, New Mexico, is having on the Chinese American community. Certain recent media coverage of this investigation has chosen to portray Chinese and Chinese Americans with a broad brush, using loaded words that are offensive and implying that certain people should be treated with suspicion solely because of their ethnicity or national origin. Cartoons exaggerate and poke fun at physical appearances of individuals by depicting slanted eyes and buck teeth.

In one particularly offensive example, a recent editorial in a Santa Fe, New Mexico, newspaper made fun of Asian accents, unnecessarily referred to the "Fu Manchu" character, and tried to link the allegations of stolen nuclear secrets and the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

Mr. President, Asian Pacific Americans are an important part of our body politic. They have made significant contributions to politics, business, industry, science, sports, education, and the arts. Men and women like the late Senator Sparky Matsunaga, Olympic Champion Kristi Yamaguchi, Architect I.M. Pei, Maxine Hong Kingston, Ellison Onizuka, and many others have enhanced and invigorated the life of this nation.

Asian Americans have played a fundamental part in making this country what it is today. Asian immigrants helped build the great transcontinental railroads of the 19th century. They labored on the sugar plantations of Hawaii, on the vegetable and fruit farms of California, and in the gold mines of the West. They were at the forefront of the agricultural labor movement, especially in the sugarcane and grape fields, and were instrumental in developing the fishing and salmon canning industries of the Pacific Northwest. They were importers, merchants, grocers, clerks, tailors, and gardeners. They manned the assembly lines during America's Industrial Revolution. They opened laundries, restaurants, and vegetable markets. They also served our nation in war: the famed all-Nisei 100th/442nd combat team of World War II remains the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.